

Name of Property: Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church

MIHP Number: CT-967

Location: 14400 Solomons Island Road

Town/Vicinity: Solomons

Date of Construction: 1928

Access: __Public ☒ Private

Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church is located north of Solomons Island on Solomons Island Road in Calvert County. The parish was established in 1888, at the present site of the Catholic cemetery (CT-951). The current church replaced the original building in 1928, and has served Solomons ever since.

The building is a Gothic Revival-style stuccoed masonry church with a nave-plan. The exterior of the building features alternating salient buttresses and stained glass lancet windows on the longitudinal ends, and new windows at basement level. On the facade, there is a central lancet window over the replacement arched door, framed by gabled salient buttresses. The entry contains replacement wood double doors with a new stained glass arched transom window. On the south corner of the facade is a bell tower with an open lantern and steeple, with steeple finials at the top of the tower surrounding the pinnacle.

The church has multiple additions and alterations that obscure the original plan and decrease its architectural integrity. There is a large addition, which varies between one and two stories, to the south and east of the original structure that has been built recently and is used as a school. This addition is incompatible with the original Gothic structure, which was constructed as a place of worship with a school in a separate building. The original school building still exists on the property and has been connected to the church with the new sprawling addition. The front entrance doors and transom on the church have also been replaced with new wood panel doors

and stained glass. These elements are prominent features on the exterior of the building and the loss of the original significantly decreases the level of architectural integrity possessed by the structure. Windows at the basement level on the side walls are replacements as well.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church Inventory Number: CT-967
Address: 14400 Solomons Island Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Avondale Zip Code: 20688 County: Calvert
USGS Quadrangle(s): Solomons Island
Property Owner: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington D.C. Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 1 Tax Map Number: 44B
Project: MD 4: Thomas Johnson Bridge Historic Building Survey Agency: Maryland SHA
Agency Prepared By: Hardlines Design Company
Preparer's Name: Maria Gissendanner Date Prepared: 6/3/2009
Documentation is presented in: MHT State Historic Sites Inventory Form CT-967
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The church has multiple additions and alterations that obscure the original plan and decrease its architectural integrity. There is a large addition which varies between one and two stories to the south and east of the original structure used as a school that has been built recently. This addition is incompatible with the original Gothic structure which was constructed as a place of worship with a school in a separate building. The original school building still exists on the property and has been connected to the church with the sprawling newer addition. The front entrance doors and transom on the church have also been replaced with new wood panel doors and new stained glass; these elements are prominent features on the exterior of the building and the loss of the originals significantly decreases the level of architectural integrity possessed by the structure. Windows at the basement level on the side walls are recent replacements as well.

NRHP recommendation: Not eligible.

Generally, religious properties fall under a category of properties in the NRHP that can not normally be considered eligible. However, if the property meets certain requirements it can be considered for listing. For a religious structure to be considered for the NRHP, it must be an integral part of a historic district or must meet Criteria Consideration A standards for Religious Properties

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: Contributes to Avondale HD (NR elig.)

Jim Carls
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

2/24/10
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

3/9/10
Date

200903641

which is "a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance." Also, a property may not be considered eligible just because it was the oldest structure used by a religious group in a local area.

Applying those considerations to Our Lady Star of the Sea, the structure is located within the boundaries for the Avondale Historic District, recommended as eligible in 2001, but it was ~~not~~ included on the DOE as ~~either a contributing or a non-contributing~~ structure. Considering the large addition added to the building ca. 1991, the building has lost integrity and it is recommended that the building is a non-contributing element to that district. Regarding architectural and artistic distinction, in its original form, the church is a good example of Gothic Revival-style architecture, which was a popular form used in the construction of religious institutions in the 1920s. This church is not a high-style example of Gothic Revival architecture as the details are fairly plain and other better examples of it probably exist in the county. The original building has lost integrity with the large addition, which wraps around the original church building, and with the replacement of the original doors, which were a dominant architectural feature on the building. So the structure cannot be considered eligible based on architectural or artistic distinction because of the loss of integrity. In terms of historical importance, Our Lady Star of the Sea replaced the first Catholic Church on Solomons Island and is therefore the oldest surviving Catholic Church in Solomons, but according to the National Register guidelines, being the oldest surviving example of a structure used by a religious group in an area is not enough justification for NRHP status. Since Our Lady Star of the Sea does not meet any of Criterion Consideration A standards for listing of religious properties on the NRHP, it is recommended as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

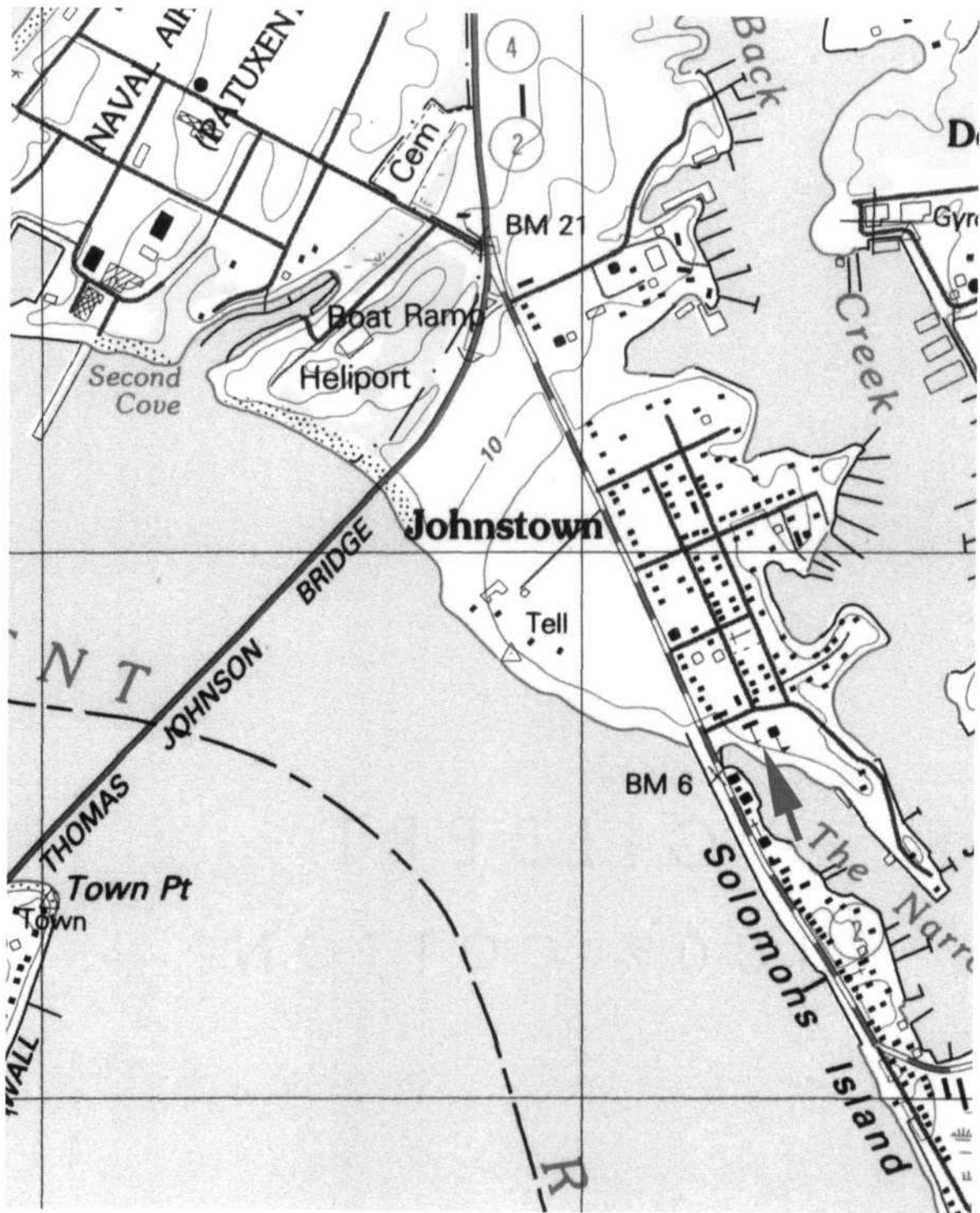
Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

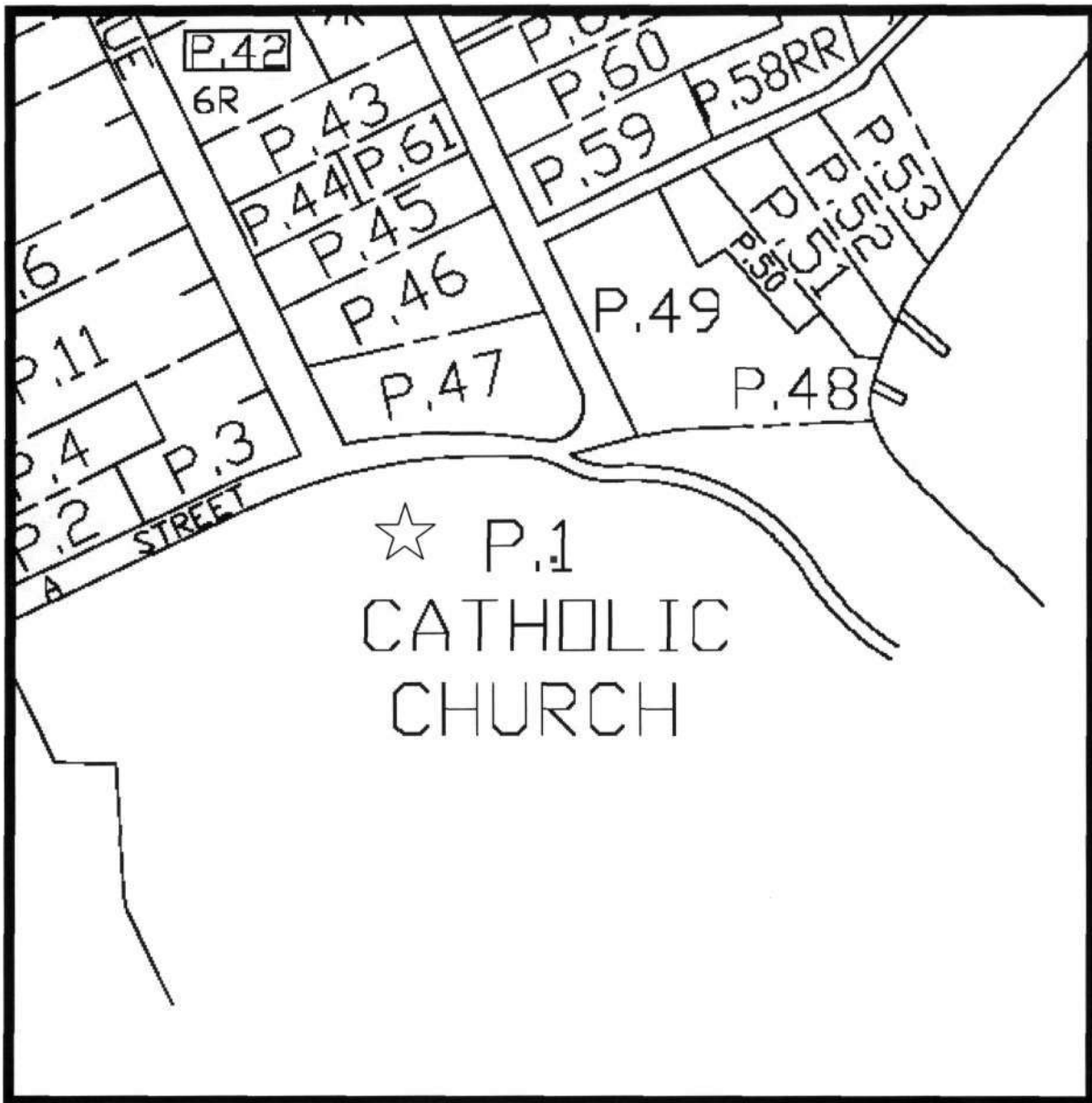
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church
 14400 Solomons Island Road
 CT - 967
 Solomons Island Quadrangle, Maryland
 USGS 7.5' topographic series, 1987



14400 Solomons Island Road, Our Lady Star of the Sea, CT-967

Tax Map 44B, Parcel 1 (marked by star)

Solomons, Calvert County, Maryland

Source: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/>



CT-967

14400 Solomons Island Road / Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

MD-4 Thomas Johnson Bridge Historic Building Survey

Calvert County, Maryland

Photographer: Maria Gissendanner

May 25, 2009

Maryland SHPO

Facing Southeast towards the church

1 of 2



CT-967

14400 Solomons Island Road/Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

MD-4: Thomas Johnson Bridge Historic Building Survey

Calvert County, Maryland

Photographer: Maria Gissenclauer

May 25, 2009

Maryland SHPO

Facing southwest towards the church

2 of 2

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

2. Location

street & number Solomons Island Road S. (MD 2) & A Street ___ not for publication

city, town Solomons ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Solomons state and zip code MD 20688

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-967

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Sited on a raised platform of earth, this stuccoed nave-plan church faces west toward Solomons Island Road at the Patuxent River. Salient buttresses alternate with lancet windows on the long sides. On the front gable end, a wide lancet entrance and a surmounting lancet window are framed by a pair of gabled salient buttresses. A bell tower with an open lantern and polygonal steeple is set at the southeast corner of the building. Parapet walls obscure the gable roof. The style of this church building is Spanish colonial. Set on a raised basement, this structure is four bays long and has a recent flat-roofed rear addition.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-967

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1927

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Catholic Parish was established in 1888, and the first church was built in the present site of the Catholic cemetery (CT-951). This church was dedicated in 1928.

From Solomons by Foot, Bicycle, or Boat.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-967

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Solomons Island, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Wellsorganization MHT/Calvert Dept. of Planningdate 9/30/86street & number Courthouse Annex, Main Streettelephone (301) 535-2348city or town Prince Frederickstate Maryland 20678

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

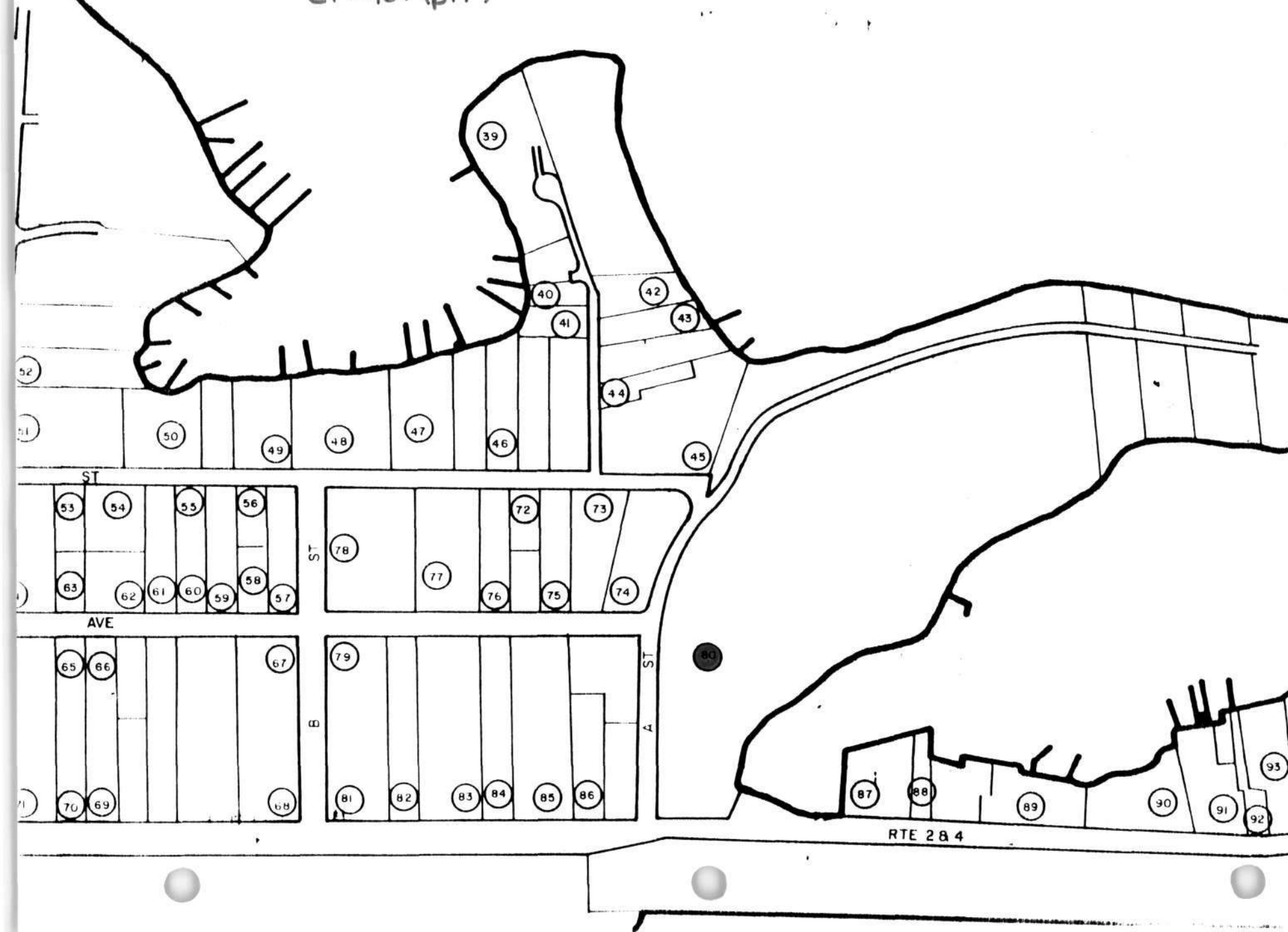
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

SOLOMONS

CAWERT COUNTY MAPS # 44, 46

ENLARGEMENT 2 OF 2

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Ct-967 Our Lady Star of the Sea
Solomons Island Road
Solomons

Camille Wells
view from the northwest

9/86